

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 EUR-12

PM-03 PC-01 AID-05 SS-15 NSC-05 /056 W

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R 301436Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2877

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

DOD WASHDC

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1172

DOD FOR DIA

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS MARR MASS MOPS ET US

SUBJ: DATTS CONFINEMENT TO ADDIS ABABA AREA

REF: USDAO 0061JAN75

1. REFTEL REPORTED CONFIRMATION BY MOD J-2 OF CONFINEMENT ALL MILITARY ATTACHES, INCLUDING US DATTS, TO AREA WITHIN 40 KILOMETER RADIUS OF ADDIS ABABA EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

2. IT REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT THIS RESTRICTION DIRECT OUT-GROWTH OF EPMG'S SENSE OF VULNERABILITY AND CONCERN OVER UPCOUNTRY DEVELOPMENTS AND PROSPECTS, NOTABLY WITH RESPECT TO ERITREA AND LAND REFORM.

3. EMBASSY, HOWEVER, OF VIEW THAT PASSIVE ACCEPTANCE OF SUCH AN OPEN-ENDED RESTRICTION AND PRECEDENT IT SETS DISSERVES OUR INTERESTS. NOW, MORE THAN EVER, WE NEED TO KEEP TRACK TO BEST OUR ABILITY OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS COUNTRY CAPABLE OF AFFECTING OUR AREA POSTURE AND PROGRAMS: THE SECURITY OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS; THE POSSIBLE SPREAD OF DISSIDENCE; THE RELATED COMMITMENT OF ETHIOPIAN FORCES TO CONTAIN SUCH DISSIDENCE OR AGAINST AN EXTERNAL ENEMY; THE COHESION, DISCIPLINE
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AND PERFORMANCE OF ETHIOPIAN MILITARY UNITS; THE USE OR MISUSE

OF US-SUPPLIED MILITARY EQUIPMENTS; ETC. FOR INFORMATION OF THIS KIND COUNTRY TEAM IS PARTIALLY DEPENDENT UPON US MILITARY ATTACHES, WHOSE ABILITY TO TRAVEL THEREFORE MATTER OF CONSIDERABLE MOMENT.

4. ACCORDINGLY, UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO CONTRARY, EMBASSY INTENDS APPROACH MOFA EARLY NEXT WEEK WITH THE VIEW TO EXPLORING A RELAXATION OF THE CURRENT TIGHT RESTRICTIONS ON DATT TRAVEL. WE WOULD URGE SUCH RELAXATION ON GROUNDS OF MUTUAL INTEREST AND SPECIFICALLY SEEK EPMG'S CONSENT TO FREEST POSSIBLE MOVEMENT OF OUR ATTACHES IN COUNTRY.

5. GIVEN REASONS WHICH PROBABLY UNDERLIE EPMG'S DECISION DRASTICALLY CONSTRAIN DATT TRAVEL, WE DO NOT THINK WE ARE LIKELY TO ACHIEVE RESTORATION OF STATUS QUO ANTE. WE MAY, HOWEVER, BE ABLE TO OBTAIN SOME RELAXATION OF TRAVEL BAN AND WOULD BE PREPARED ACCEPT OCCASIONAL REFUSAL BY THE AUTHORITIES AGREE TO DATT TRAVEL PROPOSALS PRE-NOTIFIED TO THEM AS PRICE FOR SOME LIFTING OF CURRENT CONSTRAINTS.

6. MAAG AND DAO CONCUR.

WYMAN

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